

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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P R 091620Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2583

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 1243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GR TU

SUBJ: TA NEA PRINTS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH TURKISH MFA  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. TA NEA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION) FEBRUARY 6 PUBLISHED  
PURPORTED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW OF ITS CORRESPONDENT  
GEORGOS LIANIS WITH TURKISH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL  
SEMIH AKBIL. BASIC QUESTION AND ANSWER FORMAT  
RELATED TO GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE. TWO CHIEF  
ASSERTIONS OF AKBIL IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WERE:  
(A) GREEK AEGEAN ISLANDS MUST BE DEMILITARIZED. TREATIES  
OF LAUSANNE AND PARIS ARE CATEGORICAL. ALTHOUGH GREECE  
ILLEGALLY MAINTAINS A GREAT NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL  
ON THE ISLANDS, IT IS TO NO PURPOSE SINCE TURKEY COULD  
OCCUPY THEM WITHIN 24 HOURS IF IT DESIRED.

(B) GREECE HAS BANNED FLIGHTS OVER THE AEGEAN. GREECE  
HAS CLOSED THIS SEA WHICH IS INTERNATIONAL. GREECE  
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WANTS THE ENTIRE AEGEAN. NOW WE (TURKS) ARE

STRUGGLING ABOUT THE TERRITORIAL (SIC) WATERS.

(C) IF THERE IS OIL IN THE AEGEAN IT IS BETTER FOR GREECE AND TURKEY TO JOINTLY EXPLOIT IT. "IF WE DIVIDED THIS SEA IN THE MIDDLE, ON THE RIGHT WILL BE TURKISH OIL AND ON THE LEFT GREEK OIL. THE TERM TERRITORIAL (SIC) WATERS MEANS THE SEA BETWEEN GREEK MAINLAND AND TURKISH MAINLAND, NOT (REPEAT NOT) MEASURED FROM THE (GREEK) ISLANDS. EVERY SEA HAS ITS PECULIARITIES: IN THIS ARCHIPELAGO THERE ARE 3045 ISLANDS.

2. COMMENT: IN THE SAME ISSUE OF TA NEA, AN UNNAMED GREEK MILITARY OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED AS COMMENTING ON AKBIL'S REMARKS AS FOLLOWS: "THE AEGEAN IS INVULNERABLE FROM MILITARY, NAVAL AND AIR ATTACKS. ANY ATTEMPT AGAINST IT WILL BE TOTALLY DEFEATED. WHEN WE SAY 'ATTEMPT' WE MEAN 'ATTEMPT' BECAUSE IT WILL NEVER HAVE THE TIME TO DEVELOP INTO A FULL ATTACK." THE UNNAMED OFFICER CONTINUED BY NOTHING "THE ENTIRE AEGEAN IS PROTECTED WITH MODERN AND DEFENSIVE MEASURES. EVERY ISLAND, EVERY DESERT ISLET IS SURROUNDED BY A FLOATING OR AERIAL 'STEEL WALL OF FIRE' THAT WILL WIPE OUT ANY ENEMY ATTEMPTING AN APPROACH." KUBISCH

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